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The Avian Influenza and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea outbreaks are good reminders that livestock owners must be ever vigilant for contagious diseases and have effective biosecurity plans in place. Biosecurity measures are all about reducing risk. Three good biosecurity resources are included in this issue's "Lure of Going Online" column. If you would like help developing a biosecurity plan for your farm, contact me.

The Kidding Pen is available in English and Spanish at www.animalag.wsu.edu/newsletters. We welcome input from producers! Send your announcements, comments, suggestions, recipes and educational articles to:

Dr. Susan Kerr kerrs@wsu.edu
WSU Northwestern Research & Extension Center
16650 St. Rt. 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-4768

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SAVE THESE DATES!

Feb. 7 NW All Breeds Goat Club meeting and kidding workshop, Mount Vernon, WA. For more info, contact Susan Kerr.

Feb. 17 et al. WSU Cheese classes. See article.

Feb. 21 NW Oregon Dairy Goat Association Annual Conference, Clackamas, OR. Not just for dairy goats! See article.

Feb. 27 San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit: Farming for the Next Generation. Farm tours of Sunnyfield Goat Dairy and S&S Farm Cow Dairy. More info at <http://sjcarc.org/summit>.

April 11-12 Oregon Meat Goat Producers' Spring Show and Pen Sale, Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. More info at www.omgp.org.

May 17 Goat Academy, Goldendale, WA. See article.

THE LURE OF GOING ONLINE



<http://kerrcenter.com/publications-list/#goats>.

Publications from the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Oklahoma.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/102381/Footrot-in-Sheep-and-Goats.pdf. Foot rot fact sheet from New South Wales.

www.nadis.org.uk/livestock/goats.aspx. Goat educational units and quizzes from the U.K.

<http://acsrpc.org>. Timely Topic for January 2015: "Silver bullet seconded: Can the right grazing strategy control parasites?" Concise "this is what we did to control parasites by grazing management" article by a Montana sheep producer.

Biosecurity Resources

- <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/BioSecurityBasics.pdf>
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an194>
- <http://tinyurl.com/ludwos2>

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

adapted from www.omgp.org/goat-recipes.html

Crescent Roll Tacos



- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 lb. ground goat | Shredded lettuce |
| 2 tubes of crescent rolls | Sour cream |
| 1 pkt. taco seasoning | Sliced avocado |
| 1/2 small can sliced olives | 1 or 2 diced tomatoes |
| 1.5 cups grated cheddar cheese | |

Spread crescent rolls out on baking sheet. Cook goat meat until brown and 160°F; add taco seasoning or other desired seasonings and stir well. Place cooked meat in a circle at the center of the rolls. Top with cheese. Pull over tops of crescent rolls and tuck under meat and cheese. Follow baking instructions for the crescent rolls. When rolls are golden, remove from oven and add optional toppings (more cheese, lettuce, tomato, black olives, sour cream, etc.).

2015 GOAT ACADEMY

The 5th Goat Academy will be held in the Goldendale area in south central WA on May 16. There will be a wide variety of class offerings including basic care, fiber topics, fitting and showing, tattooing, tagging, banding, giving injections, trimming hooves, tube feeding, micro-chipping, FAMACHA, fecal egg counting, genetics, milking, pack goats, cart and harness goats, parasite control, cheese making, nutrition, diseases, record keeping, grazing for profit, and more.

Breakfast will be light continental, lunch will feature several goat meat dishes. Breakfast and lunch are included with registration, \$35 each or \$50 for couples. Payment can be by check, mailed to Columbia Basin Goat Guild, c/o Mary Wilson P.O. Box 73, Bickleton, WA 99322, or you can request a Paypal invoice and one will be e-mailed to you. Payment must be received for entry.

We are offering an on-site area for tent or travel trailer camping Friday night. We will have a simple campfire and hot dog roast Friday night. A \$5 donation would be nice as we'll need a port-a-potty.

Please leave your pets at home. There will be a lot going on and pets can become stressed and unpredictable.

We are always open to appropriate vendors and welcome your inquiries. We feel this adds to the day and offers an opportunity for both vendors and participants to benefit. We are currently anticipating a nice demonstration of a fodder system by Farmtek, so if you've heard about the fodder system but want to know more, this is a great opportunity.

We will also be holding our annual raffle, so come join the fun and see what you can win. We usually have a good selection of prizes to offer and anticipate some really nice ones.

Money generated by the Goat Academy is used to provide small grants to producers involved with goats to promote, improve, or initiate programs to improve their business. This year's program has identified potential recipients including assistance with tuition for an Artificial Insemination Class.

For more info contact Mary Wilson at halfcreekfarm@gmail.com or go to www.columbiabasingoatguild.org/Events-and-Newsletters.html.

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Q FEVER ANTIBODY STUDY OF WA GOATS

adapted from Vet Med Extension newsletter Spring 2014 & Sondgeroth K. et al. Seroprevalence of *Coxiella burnetii* in Washington State Domestic Goat Herds. Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases. Nov. 2013, 13(11): 779-783.

A goat herd seroprevalence (presence of antibodies) of *Coxiella burnetii* infection was determined by passive surveillance of domestic goat herds in Washington State. Serum samples (n=1794) from 105 herds in 31 counties were analyzed for *C. burnetii* antibodies using a commercially available Q fever antibody enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test kit. The sera were submitted to the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for routine serologic screening over an approximate 1-year period from Nov. 2010 – Nov. 2011. To avoid bias introduced by testing samples from ill animals, only routine screening of nonclinical animals was included in the study.

The results identified *C. burnetii* antibodies in 8% of samples tested (144/1794), 8.6% of goat herds tested (9/105), and 25.8% of counties tested (8/31). Within-herd seroprevalence in positive counties ranged from 2.9% to 75.8%. Counties with seropositive goats were represented in the western, eastern, southeastern, and Columbia basin agricultural districts of the state. The findings provide baseline information for future epidemiologic, herd management and public health investigations of Q fever.

Additional information: *C. burnetii* can cause sheep and goat abortions and can be shed in milk and other secretions, particularly during kidding. It is killed by pasteurization. This organism is widespread throughout Washington State and the U.S. It can cause flu-like illness and heart disease in people. Sheep, goat and cattle that appear perfectly healthy can shed the Q fever organism.

Sheep and goat owners should be cautious during lambing and kidding: wear protective eyewear and gloves; carefully remove fluids, placentae, and aborted fetuses from the animal environment ASAP to help prevent spread of disease. Wash hands frequently and do not eat in barns or around livestock. Pregnant women should not contact sheep and goats in labor, nor their birthing secretions or placenta.

The organism is resistant to many disinfectants and can survive in the environment for a very long time. A 10% bleach solution is effective, but only if surfaces have been thoroughly cleaned with soap and water first. For more info, see <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Disease/s/QFeverManagementPractices.pdf>

BALLOTING TO CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL KIDS

by Dr. Joan Bowen, Colorado

There are many causes of retained placenta such as hypocalcemia, vitamin E or selenium deficiency, and even hypoglycemia, but presence of another kid in the uterus would be an important cause of retained placenta. I teach my clients to ballotte* the abdomen after the doe appears done to make sure that there is not another kid present.

Stand behind the rump of the ewe or doe facing the same direction as the animal. Bend over from the waist and place the flat palms of the hands palms up on the abdominal wall right in front of the udder. Quickly pull the hands upward toward one's chest with a fast movement vertically.

If there is another kid or lamb in the uterus, one will bounce the very hard bony critter. I describe it as having the feel of a frozen chicken in the freezer case. Membranes and uterus will feel like a load of wet laundry. Guys can stop laughing now, but this description works well for my clients. The basis for this bounce test is that the pregnant uterus is on the ventral surface of the abdomen and the bony solid fetus can be ballotted upward abruptly. If one is still not sure, then one can clean up the dam, the hands, glove up, use lube and palpate the uterus internally.

When examining a doe or ewe with retained membranes, remember to ask if the dam was recently vaccinated for tetanus, and administer toxoid if the dam has not been vaccinated within the past 30 days. I recommend that clients take the rectal temperature once daily in the morning for 5-7 days if the dam has a retained placenta and watch for abnormal behavior. Ewes and does with postpartum metritis are sick - they have high fevers, they stand hanging their head like death warmed over and they won't eat.

Postpartum does and ewes with retained placenta and no complications will act normal otherwise, have a normal temperature, eat well and nurse their offspring or let down their milk for removal.

If she is eating, drinking, passing feces and urine with a normal temperature, then I would just have the owner monitor temperature and appetite. The placenta will detach by day 5 or 6 and needs no therapy.

**Ballotting (bah-LOT-ting): A physical diagnostic technique used to detect solid objects surrounded by fluid, such as abdominal organs, performed by suddenly compressing the fluid with the hand, causing the solid object to abut the hand. Adapted from Ballottement. Dictionary.com Unabridged. Random House, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/ballottement>.*

WSU DAIRY SHORT COURSES

The WSU Creamery Basic-Plus Cheese Making class will be in Mount Vernon, WA Feb. 17-19. It is for beginning cheesemakers interested in pursuing a cheese making business at the artisan or farmstead level. Hobbyists and enthusiasts are also welcome. The event will include hands-on activities and a field trip to local cheese makers.

The 29th Advanced Cheese Making class will be March 3-5 in Pullman, WA. It is for experienced cheese makers, supervisors, managers, quality control and marketing personnel from commercial or industrial plants. Instruction will be from leaders in the dairy production community. This is an advanced class; participants should have cheese making experience or have attended a basic cheese making class previously. Hands-on cheese making opportunities at the WSU Creamery will be offered, including a special section on cottage cheese.

A Pasteurization workshop will be April 8-9 in Pullman. This class will cover vat and basic HTST systems. Additional discussions on magnetic flow timed systems and systems with auxiliary equipment are included. Hands-on activities will be conducted in the WSU Creamery facilities. This course is suggested for plant operators, maintenance personnel, quality assurance personnel, management, and industry suppliers.

For more info, contact Cathy Blood at blood@wsu.edu or 509-335-2845 or visit <http://creamery.wsu.edu/about-us/upcoming-events>.

A THIRD HAND

This is the time of year when down animals are more common. Pregnancy ketosis, birthing complications, milk fever, toxic mastitis and other conditions can cause does to go down and not get up. To prevent muscle damage and skin sores from prolonged pressure, be sure to massage and exercise legs, rotate animals from one side to the other several times a day, and if possible, raise them up. Cover a bale with a blanket and put it under the doe's abdomen, taking care not to damage the udder; if she is comfortable, you can leave her like this for several minutes while you change her bedding. You can also use cinches from horse saddles as slings: put one as far forward under her belly as you can and another just in front of her udder. Four people can then lift her, or you can run poles through the cinch rings and suspend her for a while. Be sure to see if she is willing to bear weight on her feet and legs or even walk each time you lift her.



3 Horse cinch with rings on ends

GETTING READY TO KID AROUND (AGAIN!)

by Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Specialist

For producers, kidding time can be a time of both joy and fear. Joy because there will soon be so many cute kids running around and fear because of those horrible middle-of-the-night dystocias. Although no one can completely avoid problems, here are some management practices that should keep your problems small and few.

1. **Breed does at the right age and size.** Breed does too late and they may be too fat to kid without trouble. Breed too soon and they may not grow large enough to kid without trouble. IN GENERAL, breed does by the time they are 12 months old. Many can be bred at 7 or 8 months old *as long as they are fed for maintenance, pregnancy and growth*. Most recommendations are to breed at around 10-12 months. Pregnancy checking is a good management practice.

2. **Know due dates.** This will help you so much! You'll know when to give booster vaccinations and selenium if necessary, when to increase the energy content of diets, and when to focus on individual animals. If you are trying to eliminate CAE from you herd, you'll need to attend the births of positive does to prevent virus transmission through colostrum. Record breeding dates whenever possible.

3. **Feed 'em right.** Don't underfeed or overfeed does; both will cause problems. In the last 6 weeks of pregnancy, start increasing the energy content of diets to help prevent pregnancy ketosis, especially in does with multiple fetuses.

4. **Remember the basics.** Dip kids' navels with iodine and clip them to about 1". Make sure they get a good dose of colostrum ASAP. Keep them warm and fed. Give injectable selenium if recommended by your veterinarian. Keep an eye out for constipation after 2 or 3 days of age.

5. **Keep it clean.** Sanitation is so important! Envision a human maternity ward—baby goats need cleanliness for their best shot at a good start, too. Every kidding should be in a clean pen. If you must assist, wash your hands and use gloves.

6. **Plan ahead.** Before the first kid arrives, have frozen colostrum on hand from last year; replace it with new colostrum as soon as you can. This should be from disease-free goats, of course. Be sure all medications are on hand and not expired. Oral calcium and propylene glycol can be lifesavers. Ask your veterinarian what else you should have in your medicine cabinet. Be sure to store medications according to label instructions. Have emergency phone numbers at the ready as well.

7. **Warm 'em up.** Be ready to battle the two major kid killers: hypothermia and starvation. Have a warming box ready because chilled kids must be

warmed up before they can be fed. Know how to tube feed and tell if kids are nursing well on their own.

8. **Monitor, monitor, monitor.** If you bred your goats, you are obligated to provide adequate care. For pregnant goats, this involves frequent monitoring. It doesn't mean you have to assist with all births, just that you should know which does are close, which are in labor, and which have kidded recently. Watch for steady progress during active labor and be prepared to investigate if does go 30 minutes without progress, doelings 60 minutes. Refer to due dates to help you keep track of individual animals' status.

9. **Keep records, not problems.** If you are willing to cull problem animals, in just a few years you will have very few problems. What would happen to a goat with dystocia if no human were there to help her? She and her problematic genetics would cease, those of problem-free does would perpetuate. Keep excellent records on your animals and use them to make selection and culling decisions.

10. **Who you gonna call?** If you have a problem, don't wait—call someone for help. This could be a neighbor, breeder, friend, 4-H leader—anyone with more experience than you. Of course, a veterinarian may be required in some cases; consider taking the goat to the clinic if possible; this might save you some money and produce the best outcome.

UMD WEBINAR SERIES

The University of MD Extension Small Ruminant Program will once more be hosting a series of educational webinars. This year's topic is pasture management. The webinars will be on Wednesdays starting Feb. 4 and concluding March 4 and will start at 7 PM EST. Presenters will be Jeff Semler and Susan Schoenian. Anyone with an Internet connection may participate. The webinars are open to the first 100 people who log into <https://connect-test.moo.umd.edu/sschoen/>.

In order, webinar topics will be planning a pasture system; pasture plants, including alternative forages; pasture and grazing management; pasture nutrition; and pasture health problems. Webinars will be recorded and archived on the Maryland Extension Small Ruminant YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6smTYnWxwKcMF7TRAuY9w/feed and available at www.sheepandgoat.com/recordings.html. Previous webinar series have covered ewe and doe management, feeding and nutrition, breeding and genetics, health and diseases, ethnic marketing, foot health, internal parasites (worms), and the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP).